

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS ALLEGATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 14463

1. STORY BY SEYMOUR HERSH IN NEW YORK TIMES DEC. 9 ON
WHITE HOUSE "PLUMBERS" WAS BASIS OF STORIES REPORTED
REFTEL. TEXT OF RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS FOLLOWS:
QTE ON AUG. 13, 1971, THERE WAS ANOTHER MAJOR LEAK, WHICH
WAS BELIEVED BY WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS TO HAVE JEOPARDIZED
A HIGH-LEVEL CIA INFORMANT INSIDE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
A DISPATCH BY TAD SZULC OF THE TIMES DESCRIBED HOW THE
SOVIET UNION HAD SUCCEEDED IN DISSUADING INDIA FROM
FORMALLY RECOGNIZING EAST PAKISTAN AS AN INDEPENDENT
NATION BY SIGNING A HURRIEDLY ARRANGED FRIENDSHIP TREATY
WITH INDIA. THE ARTICLE CITED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS,
PRODUCED BY THE CIA, THAT HAD BEEN HANDED TO PRESIDENT
NIXON A FEW DAYS EARLIER.

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THE LEAK WAS CRYPTICALLY MENTIONED IN AN AFFIDAVIT FILED

LAST MAY BY MR. KROGH IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIRST
DISCLOSURE OF THE ELLSBERG BURGLARY AND THE PLUMBERS'
OPERATIONS. MR. KROGH SAID THEN THAT THE CIA HAD INFORMED
HIS UNIT "THAT A NEWS STORY HAD PUT IN JEOPARDY THE LIFE
OF AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT, THUS EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR

INCREASED INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE
AFFIANT'S SPECIAL UNIT."

THE PLUMBERS, SOURCES SAID, HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION
LINKING THE LEAK TO DR. ELLSBERG OR TO ANY MATERIAL
IN THE PENTAGON PAPERS.

ONE CONGRESSMAN WITH CLOSE CIA CONTACTS SAID HE HAD
INQUIRED INTO THE AUG. 13 LEAK AND CONCLUDED THAT
IT WAS NOT IN ITSELF VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY. "IT WAS
SORT OF A LEFT-HANDED PROBLEM," THE OFFICIAL SAID. THE
PLUMBERS' CONCERN OVER THE JEOPARDY OF THE INFORMER"
HE ADDED, "WASN'T REALLY ON TARGET."

THE SOURCE, A DEMOCRAT, REFUSED TO AMPLIFY HIS
COMMENT EXCEPT TO SAY, "THE ISSUE INVOLVED HERE ISN'T
NATIONAL SECURITY; IT'S NIXON SECURITY."

2. HERSH ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT "PLUMBERS" WERE
INVOLVED IN AN INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING LEAK BY JACK
ANDERSON OF WHITE HOUSE PAPERS PERTAINING TO THE DECEMBER
1971 INDO-PAK WAR. KISSINGER

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